

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05771 280546Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 /093 W

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R 280506Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6469

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, PT

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN REACTIONS TO THE SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE
TIMOR

1. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM CAME UNDER CRITICISM FROM MEMBERS OF THE ALP CAUCUS' FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR HIS STATEMENT ON THE AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON THE SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR. THE GROUP SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S CALL FOR PORTUGAL TO REASSERT CONTROL WAS UNREALISTIC AND SAID QTE. WE BELIEVE THE SITUATION IN TIMOR IS NOW AT ITS MOST CRUCIAL STAGE AND THAT AN AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE IS ESSENTIAL TO END THE FIGHTING AND RESTORE PEACE IN THE MEETING. END QTE. SEVERAL OF THE LABOR MEMBERS WHO SIGNED THE LETTER, NOTABLY SENATOR GIEZELT AND MHR KEN FRY, ARE MEMBERS OF THE EXTREME LEFT WING OF THE ALP BUT OTHERS ARE MORE MODERATE.

2. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO TIMOR, THE PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED THAT AUSTRALIA WAS PREPARED TO ASSIST RED CROSS AND PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO TRAVEL TO ATAURO ISLAND, PREPARATIONS WERE MADE RECEIVE ANOTHER 800 REFUGEES IN DARWIN, AND RAAF
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PLANES WERE PLACED ON ALERT TO FLY HUMANITARIAN AID

TO TIMOR.
PERCIVAL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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